Demand of oil in India

*29. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's oil demand is expected to grow by 0.13 million barrel per day (mb/d) and it tends to even out to a certain degree by the year end;

(b) whether oil demand declined by 47 trillion barrel per day (tb/d) in October, 2008 following the highest figure of plus 200 tb/d of the year in September, 2008;

(c) whether the demand of crude in the first quarter of 2009 may decline by 2.3 mb/d, compared to the same period last year; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve India's oil production in 2009?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) India's demand for petroleum products during 2008-09 is estimated to be 133.4 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), which is higher by 4.5 MMT (about 0.10 million barrels/day) as compared to 2007-08.

(b) The consumption of petroleum products in September 2008 was 351.8 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) (2578.9 thousand barrels) per day. In October 2008, the consumption was 345.5 TMT (2532.4 thousand barrels) per day. Thus, the per day demand in October 2008 was lower than the per day demand of September 2008 by 6.3 TMT (46.5 thousand barrels).

(c) With the commissioning of a new Refinery in the Jamnagar SEZ, the crude requirement is expected to increase in the first quarter of 2009 by about 0.15 million barrels/day.

(d) The Government has taken the following steps to meet the increased oil demand and to improve India's oil production:

i. Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) policy.

ii. Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

iii. Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

iv. Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery from existing fields.

v. Arresting decline from ageing fields,

vi. Acquisition of exploration acreages and oil producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

vii. Substitution of oil in the transport sector through use of alternative fuels such as Bio-diesel, ethanol-blended petrol etc.

viii. Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

Measures for attracting foreign tourists

*30. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether she has asked State Governments to take all possible steps at their end to halt the slump in incoming tourist traffic for the last few months and has urged them to cut tax for attracting foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the main suggestions pointed out to the States including increasing of floor area ratio for hotels;

(c) the reaction of State Governments thereto;

(d) to what extent State Governments have agreed; and

(e) whether Government is confident of States attracting more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The development and promotion of tourism, including rationalization of luxury tax, passenger and road tax, are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism had written to the State Governments on 9th January, 2009 to give due consideration on these issues and also on seamless travel, safety and security of tourists and increasing Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of hotels, in order to provide relief to tourism sector in the face of global financial crisis that is affecting the tourism sector adversely.

The Ministry of Tourism has announced various promotional schemes like Visit India Year 2009, liberalization of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for overseas marketing, introduction of MDA scheme for the promotion of domestic tourism and Meetings Incentives Conferences Exhibitions (MICE) tourism and allowing External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) for the construction of hotels and increase of Floor Area Ratio from 150 to 225 in most of the parts of National Capital Territory of Delhi, so as to increase the tourist inflow in the country.

Corporate scams

*31. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Satyam Computers scam is just the tip of the iceberg and that many business houses in India, banks, auditors and Government agencies collude with vested interests to dress up balance sheets to mislead investors; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The case of Satyam Computer Services Limited (the "Company") is an isolated case of its kind and cannot be generalized. This Ministry has ordered investigation into the affairs of the Company under Sec. 235 of the Companies Act, 1956, to be carried out by officers drawn from the Serious Fraud Investigation Office. Such investigation has been ordered with a view to uncover the nature and scope of fraud/ non-compliance or violation of the law by the Company, its directors and officers and to enable appropriate action against the persons involved.

CAT-III trained pilots with private airlines

*32. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: